

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE

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**Available for Extra Help: Before school, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> break, by appointment**

**Text:** DiYanni's *Literature* and supplementary novels, plays, and handouts provided by teacher. See the Course Outline on the Website for more detailed information.

### **English Department Philosophy:**

Our English curriculum is literature-based and follows the same order and level of intensity as that of a quality U.S. prep school. The goal of the English curriculum is to provide a high quality language arts education in which cultural literacy, human values, and critical thinking are emphasized. In-depth analysis and analytical writing, general composition, creative writing and oral presentation are major components.

### **Description of the Course:**

The primary goal of the Advanced Placement English course is to develop students' abilities as readers and writers (especially as critics of literature) by giving college-level instruction. Students who successfully complete the AP examination may qualify for up to one year of credit in English at the college of their choice. AP English is both demanding and intellectually stimulating. It requires the best effort a student has on a consistent basis. AP English emphasizes the students' developing independence of thought and mature habits of critical thinking. Classroom discussion and active participation are vital means of testing the ideas of the students. Writing assignments, particularly timed in-class essays, will be an important and frequent feature of the course. If you are committed to the work as well as to listening and learning from each other, this class will ultimately become a community of learners in which we are all teachers and all students.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- a) develop accurate, perceptive reading through close study of major texts representing various literary genres
- b) acquire a fluent, precise writing style through the preparation of essays about the texts
- c) understand the techniques of poetry and prose as they affect and enhance meaning in a poem or work of fiction
- d) generate independent, thoughtful, and analytical discourse during class discussion

### **Evaluation:**

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Quizzes                           | 30 |
| Polished Writing                  | 40 |
| Portfolio (Collected Works)       | 15 |
| Independent Reading and Responses | 15 |

Note: Your grade for the second semester exam will be an average of your first and second semester grades (not including first semester exam.)

**Class Rules:**

1. Respect your own learning, the learning of others, and the teacher.
2. Follow all rules in the Student Handbook, as these will be enforced. If you plagiarize, you will be reported to the Intellectual Integrity Committee, and will face whatever consequences it determines: removal from National Honors Society, suspension, or removal from the course.
3. English is to be spoken at all times in class.

**Late Policy.** It is your responsibility to hand in all assignments on or before the due date. If you cannot be present the day an assignment is due, you can give it to someone else to hand in for you. Many written assignments can be sent to me electronically. In exceptional circumstances, if you contact me before the assignment is due, it may be possible to arrange an extension. If you do not hand in an assignment before the start of class on the day it is due, you will receive a grade of “0.” If you speak to me before the due date, and explain your circumstances, you may be granted an extension, but your work will be penalized 20% per day.

**English Only Policy** At the end of this course, you will be writing an intensive 3 hour exam that tests your knowledge of English, your English vocabulary, your ability to communicate clearly in English. There will be no questions in Spanish on this exam. I do not see any benefit to you to speak Spanish in this course, nor do I think that I am doing you any favour by allowing you to speak Spanish in this class. For that reason, you must speak only English from the time the class starts until the time the class ends. After the first week of class, you will lose one mark from your semester grade for every time that you use Spanish in this class, including in group work.

**Supplies.** You will need to have

- access to a good English dictionary
- a three ring binder with five dividers for handouts, vocabulary, and so forth.
- another binder or folder to keep all quizzes, marked assignments, notes, and so forth.
- Internet access is not mandatory, but highly recommended.
- all polished assignments must be typed or word-processed, following the proper format.
- a ready smile, a sense of humour, a desire to succeed, a love of ideas, a sense of wonder, a strong work ethic, maturity, an interest in others, a desire to think in ways that you may not have been asked to think before.